

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /016 R

66617

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APPROVED BY: B:NLPAZDRAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 152723

EXDIS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CARACAS 6462 SENT SECSTATE DATED JUNE 25.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 6462

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, V

SUBJ: MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT - PREPCON AND THE PRICE OF OIL

1. DURING OUR JUNE 21 SESSION, PRESIDENT PEREZ AGAIN REGISTERED HIS DISAGREEMENT WITH THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THAT THE POST-WAR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM HAS SERVED THE WORLD WELL. HE SAID "IT HAS SERVED YOU WELL, BUT NOT US," MEANING THE LDC'S. I SAID WE COULD PERHAPS AT LEAST AGREE THAT IT HAS SERVED ALL OF US A LOT BETTER THAN THE POST-WORLD WAR 1 SYSTEM THAT LED TO THE VIRTUAL RUIN OF A NUMBER OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AMONG SO MANY OTHERS.

2. THE PRESIDENT WENT ON TO ECHO PEREZ GUERRERO IN
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COMPLAINING THAT WE WERE INTRANSIGENT AT THE PARIS PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONFERENCE IN CONTRAST TO THE PURPORTEDLY MORE ACCOMMODATING ATTITUDE OF THE EUROPEANS. I REMARKED THAT WE WERE INCLINED TO AVOID EUPHEMISMS AND, IN ANY CASE, HAD EVOLVED IN OUR THINKING AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE SECRETARY'S RECENT SPEECHES.

3. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE THOUGHT THE PRICE OF OIL WOULD GO UP ABOUT 15 PERCENT AFTER THE SEPTEMBER OPEC MEETING. I SAID THAT COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS BETWEEN US. PEREZ AGREED, ADDING THAT "WE ARE IN A VICIOUS CIRCLE" AND MUST BREAK OUT WITH PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS. HE ASSERTED THAT THE GOV IS NOT OUT TO HARM THE US AND THAT SPECIFICALLY VENEZUELA HAD NOT BEEN AMONG THE PROPONENTS OF SHIFTING TO SDR'S FOR OIL PRICES--ALTHOUGH, OF COURSE, VENEZUELA WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW OPEC POLICY.

4. I TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON WOULD BE COMING HERE SOON TO TALK TO PEREZ GUERRERO ABOUT THE PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONFERENCE AND THAT WE HOPED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON HOW TO PROCEED FROM HERE.
SHLAUDEMANN UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PRICE TRENDS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE152723
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EB/NLPAZDRAL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750226-0048
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975066/aaaaaeka.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT - PREPCON AND THE PRICE OF OIL
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, VE, US, (PEREZ, CARLOS ANDRES)
To: ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006